

# The Way It Was

**NAME:** William B. Cutlip, MSGT  
**UNIT:** 89<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, Co. D  
**TIME PERIOD:** June 11-12, 1951  
**SOURCE:** Letter from Mr. Cutlip  
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After Action Report for Battle of Vicinity of Kumwha, a Korean town from which a strong enemy force was contesting UN Forces in the valley of Chorwon. Enemy forces engaging friendly forces of troops of D Co., 89<sup>th</sup> Tank battalion, 25 Infantry Division. The Turkish Infantry Brigade of UN command were providing ground support. Chorwon, Kumhwa, and Pyongang composed the so-called "Iron Triangle" lying at each angle.

Reported by acting tank platoon leader 2d Platoon, D. Co., 89<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Division. William B. Cutlip MSGT E-7

As acting platoon leader patrols were sent out daily to develop contact with enemy forces, I received a briefing on 12 June 1951 that my platoon with attached Turkish Infantry of approximately 25 men were to move toward the town of Kumhwa, lying at the base of a high mountain range.

Briefing my tanks of the objective, the next morning, June 11 or June 12, 1951, we struck out in column with each tank mounted with Turkish Infantry. We closed the town, and when I thought it time I ordered tanks to deploy in line position. Moving, I ordered my platoon to halt, dismount infantry, and then we proceeded forward as a tank-infantry team, employing leaps and bounds, light section covering heavy section, visa versa, until arriving near a perfect embankment surrounding the whole small town of Kumhwa. We still could see only the rooftops. All together I ordered all of my 5 tanks with Turkish Infantry to top the revetment.

We were in the town. I ordered recon by fire, cal. 30 coax and Cal. 50. I ordered the Turkish Infantry to go forward through the edge of town. Tanks were ordered to continue recon, fire beyond and over their heads. Platoon Sergeant Buck Vermilia, on our extreme right, reported small arms fire on and near his tank. The Turkish Infantry returned to the tanks. I reported back on radio the developing action. A wait ensued, then an order was received. Withdraw and return to Company rear.

Small fire was increasing. Using 2 sections of tanks we turned, tittered, and were out of the town. I gathered up the Turkish Infantry and moved back to Company rear area. I was asked to brief the other two tank platoons. In the middle, the Company Commander, D. Co., called me and said I was to report back to Tropic Lighting Forward. The CO provided his jeep and I did what was supposed. At the Headquarters, upon entering I saw a two star general, and my past battalion commander, Col. Welborn Dolvin. Mulling over maps, they took time to meet me, shook hands, and either the general or the colonel pinned the gold 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant bar on my collar.

I then was ordered to return to my unit.

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William B. Cutlip 1/LT USARet Army  
Commissioned on the Battle field June 13, 1951, Kumhwa